

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 15, 26, 36, 46-49, and 51-55 are amended. Claims 6, 13, 20, 30, 40, and 50 are cancelled. New claims 56-61 are added. Thus, Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21-29, 31-39, 41-49, and 51-61 are now pending. Support for Claim 56 can be found at least within paragraph [0034]. Support for Claim 57 can be found at least within paragraph [0034]. Support for Claim 58 can be found at least within paragraph [0045]. Support for Claim 59 can be found at least within paragraph [0045]. Support for Claim 60 can be found at least within paragraph [0059]. Claim 61 combines the subject matter of Claims 1 and 7. The amendments to the claims and new claims thus do not add any new matter to this application. Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed August 13, 2007 is addressed hereinafter, in order of appearance.

Claims 46-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 (Office Action, Pages 2-3, Sections 3-4). In response, Claims 46-49 and 51-55 have been amended, as well as various portions of the specification.

Claims 1-7, 10-14, 26-31, 34-41, 44-51, 54, and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly unpatentable over Chang in view of Moriarty (Office Action, Page 3-12, Sections 5-53). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 15, 26, 36, and 46 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 6, 20, 30, 40, and 50, respectively, and Claims 6, 20, 30, 40, and 50 have been cancelled. Claim 12 has also been similarly amended. Claims 1, 12, 15, 26, 36, and 46 now recite, inter alia, “determining that the node or a connection to the node is active if an activity announcement packet is received from the node within the specified first time period”. This feature is not present in the Chang reference or any of the others. The Chang reference discusses nodes but does not disclose any information about the connections to those nodes, as claimed.

The portion of Chang (page 4, paragraph [0064]) cited by the Office Action at page 5, section 13 to anticipate this feature is silent as to connections between nodes or adapters. Instead, this portion discusses an echo-reply message and a peer daemon. Accordingly, the rejection does not fulfill the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102.

For at least the above reasons, the rejections of Claims 1, 12, 15, 26, 36, and 46, as well as all claims dependent therefrom, are invalid and should be withdrawn.

Next, newly added claim 61 combines the subject matter of Claims 1 (as originally presented) and 7. Claim 61 recites, inter alia, “tracking nodes from which activity announcement packets have been received by an index comprising address and connection status information for each such node”. This feature is not shown within Chang or any combination of prior art.

The portion of Chang (paragraphs [0074] and [0075]) cited by the Office Action at page 5, section 14 to anticipate this feature (from Claim 7) is silent as to address and connection status information for nodes. Instead, these sections discuss point-to-point communications between Mayor Nodes, and also various network topologies. For at least the above reasons, the rejections of Claims 7, 21, 31, 41, and 51 are invalid and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone relating to any issue that would advance examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a check for the petition for extension of time fee and other applicable fees is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,
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